

**OUTAGAMIE
COUNTY
SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT**



Sheriff BRADLEY G. GEHRING

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DATE: July 15, 2009

TO: State Senator Holperin
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry,
and Natural Resources

FROM: Bradley G. Gehring, Sheriff

RE: Assembly Bill 308—Police Escorts

I would like to voice my support of Assembly Bill 308 concerning Police escorts. Current State Statute allows for funeral processions to proceed through intersections after only the lead vehicle has stopped at the intersection and yielded the right of way. All other vehicles in the procession can then proceed through without stopping.

State Statute does not allow law enforcement officers in marked vehicles the same privilege. This proposed legislation would allow law enforcement officers to escort vehicles through controlled intersections while using their emergency lights if the procession has a marked law enforcement vehicle at the head of the procession and one at the rear.

In our jurisdiction, as well as throughout the State, law enforcement officials are often called upon to escort professional sports teams, as well as national political figures, through our communities. In each case there is an expectation of law enforcement to keep the escorted vehicles together and moving in a safe manner for security reasons. Current law requires that every vehicle in such a procession stop at all stop signs and all red lights, yielding the right of way. This allows non-escorted vehicles to operate in between escorted vehicles which fragments the procession and compromises security.

In conclusion, I believe that this is necessary legislation which would allow police officers to safely fulfill the expectations of the community and our guests.

"Protecting and Serving Our Community Since 1851"